

**Minutes of the Fermoy Municipal District Meeting
held on Thursday, 11th June 2020**

In Attendance: Cllrs. Kay Dawson, Noel McCarthy, Deirdre O' Brien, Frank O' Flynn, William O' Leary, Frank Roche; Brendan O' Gorman SEE, Mary Hayes SEO, Pauline Moriarty MDO, Lydia Kelly ASO, Catherine Price CO.

1. "In Committee" 2020 COMMUNITY GRANTS

Catherine Price CO circulated a list of the proposed 2020 Community Grants allocations for the Members consideration. She answered any queries the Members had in connection with the draft proposals and in relation to the groups whose applications were deemed ineligible. In relation to two of the unsuccessful applications it was recommended that these groups take action now to secure the required planning permissions and re-apply in 2021. Diane Finucane A/MDO explained her intention to retain €2,300 as unallocated and earmark this for any potential discretionary expenses that may arise throughout the year. The Members gave the proposed grant allocations careful and diligent consideration and on the proposal of Cllr. Noel McCarthy, seconded by Cllr. William O' Leary and agreed by all the Members, the 2020 Community Grants allocations, in the amount of €195,150, were adopted. The Members thanked all staff involved in the processing and preparation of the Community Grants proposals, acknowledging the huge volume of work involved.

Mary Hayes SEO took this opportunity to inform the Members that St. George's Heritage Centre in Mitchelstown had successfully secured grant funding in the amount of €116,000 over two years from the 'Historic Structures Fund 2020' and congratulated them on this success. The Members endorsed these congratulations and welcomed this good news.

2. "In Committee" PARKING ARRANGEMENTS

1. Parking Arrangements

To facilitate social distancing on the footpaths in Fermoy town centre to meet Covid-19 restrictions it is necessary to temporarily remove fourteen car parking spaces under Project 'ACT'. This proposal has met with resistance from some of the business community in Fermoy. The Members comprehensively discussed the issue and the various options suggested to allay the situation and the following compromise agreement was reached:

- that car parking in the three town car parks, usually costing €1 per day, would be free of charge from the 29th June until 1st August 2020, with a possible extension to this time period if proving successful.
- that business owners would request their employees to (and that they themselves would) park off-street and in the 'further' areas of these car parks to free up the on-street and closer spaces for customers.
- that on-street car parking charges and time limit would remain unchanged to encourage regular turnover of spaces.
- that the media would be requested to highlight these arrangements.

It was agreed that the key priority is the safety of shoppers at this time. It was also acknowledged that this proposal may/will significantly impact the future value of the Pay Parking Dividend.

In relation to Bus Eireann bus stops, Brendan O' Gorman SEE informed the Members that it is Bus Eireann and the NTA who have responsibility for ensuring their passengers have adequate social distance as they embark and disembark from buses. The local authority will cooperate by arranging the appropriate roadmarkings, when and where required. Meetings are ongoing between the three agencies, at a local and national level, and Brendan will keep the Members updated accordingly.

3. MINUTES

1. Confirmation of Minutes of Fermoy MD May 2020 meeting held on 6th May 2020.

The Minutes were agreed on the proposition of Cllr. Noel McCarthy, seconded by Cllr. Deirdre O' Brien.

4. REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. REPORT : MDO June 2020 Report

(1) 2020 Community Grants

The 2020 Community Grant proposals, representing an allocation of €195,150 with a total of sixty-nine applications (thirty-four Amenity, twenty-one Contract, eight Capital and six GMA), were unanimously approved by the Members and adopted. The Members wholeheartedly welcomed the grants, saying they were a great boost to the many clubs, groups and community associations throughout the district. Diane Finucane A/MDO said that, in light of restrictions due to Covid-19 and mindful of possible delays, this year's grants will remain available into 2021 for any applicant group who cannot complete their project by this year end.

(2) Car Park Arrangements, Fermoy

The agreed revision to car parking arrangements in Fermoy's three car parks, as outlined at Item 2(1) of these Minutes, was welcomed by the Members.

(3) Village Enhancement Scheme, Rathcormac

Brendan O' Gorman SEE informed the Members that the *Part VIII* for Village Enhancement Scheme works in Rathcormac should be ready in September/October 2020 and confirmed public consultation will take place at every stage of this project.

(5) Painting Scheme 2020

In relation to the 2020 Painting Scheme, Mary Hayes SEO advised that applications can be submitted through the Project ACT Town Development Fund application process. Cllr. Kay Dawson sought clarity on the mechanism for processing these applications, saying the local decision-making power of the elected Members is being removed. Mary Hayes SEO said Town Development Fund had been approved at full Council by the Members, but agreed to take Cllr. Dawson's concerns back to senior management for their consideration and revert to the Members in due course.

Further to a query Cllr. Noel McCarthy was assured that the plans for Pearse Square, Fermoy under the 2019 Painting Scheme would go ahead this year.

Diane Finucane A/MDO went through the other items on her report, uploaded for the Members consideration, and answered any queries the Members had. The Members thanked Diane for the update and commended her and all involved in the very successful Covid-19 Community Response Programme.

2. UPDATE : Fermoy Weir Remediation and Fish By Pass Channel

Mary Hayes SEO went through the most recent project timeline for this job, saying the consultants are hopeful of submitting the *Part X* to An Bórd Pleanála by August 2020. Cllr. Frank O' Flynn enquired if the public meeting planned for August 2020 would go ahead, to which Mary replied she will check with Kevin Morey, County Engineer and revert to the elected Members.

3. PROGRESS REPORT : 2020 RI Programme

Brendan O' Gorman SEE informed the Members that the wet mixing crew are back on site since 18th May 2020, the programme is two months behind schedule (due to Covid-19 shutdown) and works are now 25% complete. The black-top contractor is also back on site and working through the programme.

4. PROGRESS REPORT : 2020 RM Programme

Brendan O' Gorman SEE informed the Members that works on this programme commenced on Monday 8th June and will be circa 20% complete by Friday, there are three weeks works to be done starting with the higher category roads.

5. PROGRESS REPORT : 2020 Drainage Programme

Works on the Drainage Programme are on schedule to date this year, with drainage works being done on roads prior to wet mixing and/or surface dressing works.

6. UPDATE : Rockmills Safety Improvement Scheme

Brendan O' Gorman SEE informed the Members that the *Section 38* for this proposed SIS has been on display at Fermoy Town Hall with a closing date of Friday 12th July 2020. There have been no public submissions to date, and both An Garda Síochána and the local population of Rockmills are satisfied with the proposals. Brendan answered any queries the Members had and undertook to keep them updated at every stage of the works.

In relation to the 2019 Footpath Programme, Brendan said the Contractor is back on site and works are ongoing, starting at George's Street, Mitchelstown. Footpath works outstanding from 2019 in Kilworth and Rathcormac will be done. Cllr. Kay Dawson enquired in relation the 'bridges' over the water channel on George's Street (to facilitate access to cars), to which Brendan replied yes, these will be provided. There are two pedestrian crossings proposed for the main street in Mitchelstown to be funded from Age Friendly Grant funds and Brendan advised these will also commence in the coming weeks.

Cllr. Deirdre O' Brien thanked Brendan for the speed ramps and roadworks at Sliabh Álainn and sought reassurance that the flooding issue that had previously existed here would not re-occur. Brendan O' Gorman SEE replied that the new road levels knitted into the existing lowest level of the ramp across the estate entrance (which has been left in place) and therefore the new resurfacing laid cannot interfere with the current drainage arrangements long in place.

7. RECOMMENDATION : 'Adopt a Roundabout' application - Mart Roundabout, R639, Corrin, Fermoy - Applicant: John Howard, Sunnyside Farm

Brendan O' Gorman SEE informed the Members that satisfactory plans, schedules and insurances had been submitted by Mr. Howard, all of which were acceptable for the 'adoption' of this roundabout, subject to Members approval. On the proposal of Cllr. William O' Leary, seconded by Cllr. Kay Dawson and agreed by all the Members approval was sanctioned.

5. NOTICES OF MOTIONS

None. Diane Finucane A/MDO undertook to check with Corporate Affairs in relation to submission of notice of motions for the July 2020 meeting.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

1. EMAIL Jonathan Cahill EE 11.5.2020 RE Bus Shelters North Cork

Noted. Diane Finucane A/MDO was requested to seek an update on the programme of installation of these proposed bus shelters.

2. EMAIL M. Fitzgerald Hsg. Ops. 22.5.2020 RE Repairs to Wall at Cúl Móna/Lissore

Noted.

7. TO CONSIDER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

None.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(1) Cllr. Noel McCarthy - Danger to pedestrians on popular walking routes, Fermoy.

Cllr. McCarthy enquired if anything could be done to protect pedestrians who are now stepping off footpaths in an attempt to maintain a distance of two metres while out walking. Brendan O' Gorman SEE replied that Caroline Casey, Roads Safety Officer for the Council would be requested to prepare a media release highlighting this danger. He added that directional arrows for pedestrians had now been provided on streets under Project 'ACT'.

(2) Cllr. William O' Leary - Request for designated time for users with special needs in Castlelyons Playground.

This request was supported by all the Members. Diane Finucane MDO agreed this was a worthy initiative and advised the members that she had recommended to Castlelyons Community Council

that they introduce this measure on an unofficial basis but explained the playground is an amenity for the whole community and Cork County Council cannot enforce dedicated times to any groups.

(3) Cllr. Noel McCarthy - Enquiry re: use of Fermoy Town Park for groups/classes.

Cllr. McCarthy asked if groups (of appropriate numbers) could use the park in lieu of indoor venues to conduct exercise/dance classes etc. Diane Finucane MDO replied yes, the park can be used for such purposes but must be agreed through the Municipal District Office as there are conditions to adhere to and correct insurance must be in place etc.

(4) Cllr. Deirdre O' Brien - Query re: pedestrian crossing at CBS on Brigown road.

Cllr. O' Brien asked if there was any remedial action that could be taken at this crossing to improve pedestrian safety as motorists are speeding through to 'make' the traffic lights. Brendan O' Gorman SEE replied that he will examine this location with a view towards a Safety Improvement Scheme in 2021/2022.

(5) Cllr. Deirdre O' Brien - James Street car park proposal.

Cllr. O' Brien again highlighted the need to progress the construction of this proposed car park. Brendan O' Gorman SEE confirmed that approval and funding is in place for this project, but that this, being a capital project, is stalled under Covid-19 restrictions. There is also a deficit of technical staff in the district to oversee/manage this project following the alteration of the area boundaries, an issue which needs to be addressed.

(6) Cllr. Frank O' Flynn - Thank you to Cork County Council staff.

Cllr. O' Flynn thanked all staff involved in the removal of the caravan from Kilcrumper Cemetery.

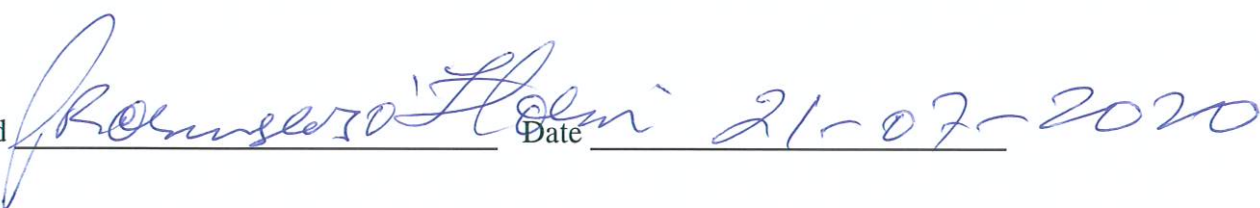
(7) Brendan O' Gorman SEE - alteration to 2020 Roadworks Programme

Brendan advised that works projects originally included on the 2020 RI programme (on the R512 Kildorrery to Limerick road and R628 Castle cross, Conna westwards) have now been postponed to 2021.

(8) Mary Hayes SEO - Funding Schemes coming onstream

Mary Hayes SEO informed the Members that three funding streams, including Clár, are coming onstream shortly and she will keep the elected Members informed accordingly.

Signed

 21-07-2020

Date